

Message Text

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR EIND UR

SUBJ: SENATOR ROTH'S VISIT TO MINISTRY OF AGRUCULTURE

1. SENATOR ROTH AND AGATTACHE MET WITH I.G. KUZNETSOV, DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ON APRIL 16.

2. TOPICS COVERED INCLUDED TRADE, POULTRY DEVELOPMENTS, FERTILIZER SUPPLIES, THE NEW USSR FARM PROGRAM, AND THE CURRENT CROP OUTLOOK.

3. ON TRADE QUESTIONS DEPUTY MINISTER KUZNETSOV INDICATED SOVIET CONTINUED INTEREST IN U.S. GRAIN PURCHASES, BUT THE TIMING OF PURCHASES WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON DOMESTIC NEEDS AND THE WORLD MARKET SITUATION. THE INFERENCE MADE WAS THAT PURCHASES MIGHT BE MADE EVEN AFTER A BUMPER CROP IF THE PRICE SITUATION WERE FAVORABLE.

4. POULTRY PRODUCTION IN THE USSR ACCORDING TO KUZNETSOV IS IN THE SECOND STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT -- THE PROGRAM NOW IS TO CONCENTRATE ON LARGE SCALE BROILER PRODUCTION.

5. FERTILIZER SUPPLIES IN THE USSR WERE IMPROVING BUT ACTUAL APPLICATION RATE IS FAR BELOW THE U.S. WHEN MENTION WAS MADE OF A TIGHT FERTILIZER SUPPLY SITUATION IN THE U.S. THE DEPUTY MINISTER STATED "THE USSR WOULD LIKE TO DEAL WITH SUCH
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SHORTAGES."

6. THE NEW FARM PROGRAM WAS PUT IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF A
"NEW VIRGIN LAND PROGRAM."

7 ON CROP DEVELOPMENTS KUZNETSOV INDICATED THAT THE 35 MILLION
HECTARE AREA OF FALL SOWN GRAINS IS MOSTLY WHEAT, BUT DID
INCLUDE RYE AND BARLEY. HE ADMITTED THAT THE DRY FALL EXPERIENCED
IN MOLDAVIA, WESTERN UKRAINE AND IN ODESSA HAD NOT BEEN FAVORABLE
FOR GOOD GERMINATION. RESEEDING OF FALL SOWN CROPS IN AN AVERAGE
YEAR RANGES FROM THREE TO FIVE MILLION HECTARES. THIS YEAR IT
IS GREATER BUT WILL PROBABLY BE LESS THAN 10 MILLION HECTARES.
THE GOAL FOR GRAIN PRODUCTION HOWEVER IS STILL TO PRODUCE NO
LESS THAN LAST YEAR.

8. SENATOR ROTH REQUESTS THAT FAS SEND TO HIS OFFICE COPIES OF
AGR SS4006, MEASURES TO FURTHER DEVELOP NON-CHERNOZEM AREAS;
SS-4003, THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN THE SOVIET UNION; AND
ANY OTHER RECENT FAS PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS ON THE SOVIET
UNION.
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